

Sermon Outline
Sermon Text: Luke 19:9-10
Sermon Title: No Christ = No Christmas=No Hope

Luke 19:9-10 ⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* (NIV)

There is really **two kinds of hope** or ways to look at hope.

a. The most common way we use the word today is to mean **a desire or a wish.**

1. "I hope I get a job, I hope the interest rates drop, I hope to be able to get married, I hope my family stays healthy, I hope life makes sense someday."

2. It is easier to understand exactly what hope is by first examining **hopelessness.** When we have no hope we are left with despair. Hopelessness is purposelessness, loneliness and isolation. Hopelessness leads to depression. Without hope the human spirit spirals down to destruction. Hope is the force, or drive that causes us to press on until we have obtained. Hope is a force that works on the human heart, or subconscious mind—your driving force. **Hope is essential to our survival.** When hope is gone, life is over.

3. We all at some time in our life ask where "Is there hope? That's one of the fundamental questions of life.

4. **What do you count on in your life?** What do you put your hope in? Your career? Your bank account? All those things are good, but they're **temporal.** Wishing for them to be the foundation of your life is not a good plan because they **don't last.**

b. The other kind of **hope is different.** This kind of hope is something in the future you can count on with certainty. It's an event or blessing that will absolutely happen or lasts. **What lasts?** Things that are eternal. Biblical hope is a guarantee from God concerning a future outcome for your good. It's anchored in **who Jesus is.** We see it first in the coming of Jesus. People in the 1st Century or during the Birth of Jesus was in waiting period. They were hoping for an answer to the demoralizing spiritual and political climate of its day.

1. Do you know how many years went by after the Old Testament prophecies predicted Jesus coming to earth? Over 700 hundreds of years. That is a long time to wait.

a. Isaiah 9:2 *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."* (NIV)

b. Isaiah 9:6 *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (NIV)

c. This Child was the "Light of the World" and He came to pierce the darkness that we might live. And Christmas reminds us that **hopes can come true** and at this time of year we celebrate the truth that **there is hope!** The Child of Hope is Jesus.

d. That is the **gift of Advent**. We await the glad news of Christmas morning: “It’s a boy!” But not just any boy! Advent is **God’s hope-empowering message to us**. The gift of Jesus Christ means that God **has not abandoned us**, God has not forgotten us, God has not forsaken us!

e. The Bible tells us that Jesus came as a baby but that little baby was God Incarnate (God in Person): He came to be the very physical revelation of the invisible God and the creator of all. He came also to take the penalty of sin and to give us a way to reconcile with God and have eternal life.

f. Luke 19:10 sums up the entire Christmas story in one sentence. “The reason why God wrapped himself in flesh and came to this earth was “to seek and save the lost”¹⁰ *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*” (NIV)

g. It’s hard for us to comprehend the complete picture of the Incarnation of God. Incarnation in dictionary means “the embodiment of a deity or spirit in an earthly form. The union of divine and human natures in Jesus Christ” It means God dwelt among us in human flesh through the Birth of Jesus. We don’t fully grasp the whole meaning because we have nothing to compare it to. God had never done this before!

1. John 4:24 tells us ²⁴ **God is spirit**, and his worshipers must *worship in the Spirit and in truth.*” (NIV)

2. And this Spirit decided to come to earth as a man and 1 Tim. 3:16 tells us: “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*” (NKJV)

3. The Apostle John tried to help us understand what God did in the manger in John 1:14 “*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.*” (NIV) Jesus Christ the eternal God and creator of this world became flesh for one reason: to save our souls!

4. Without Jesus Christ, there would be no Christmas! ☺

a. This time of the year would be just like any other time of the year. Just another month of the year; just another day on the calendar.

b. Think about it Acts 4:12 says “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we **must be saved**.*” (KJV)

c. There would have been no Acts 4:12 if God had not come in the flesh for our salvation. Without Christ, you just be born, live for a while and then die. It would all be over with, possibly no eternity. But because of Jesus Christ, you have the chance to be saved.

5. The world wants to **remove Christ out of Christmas** because they are living in darkness and evil and they feel condemned every time they think of Jesus.

They want to remove Jesus Christ out of our hearts and minds and make this time of the year just like any other time.

a. The very word “Christian” means to be Christ-like. Without Christ, there would be no Christians! We would all just be sinners!

b. Paul writes the church in Ephesus, and he describes what we would be like without Christ. Eph.2:2-5,12-14, 19

*² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ **All of us** also lived among them **at one time**, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But **because of his great love for us**, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **made us alive** with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” (NIV)*

*“¹² remember that **at that time** you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, **without hope** and **without God in the world.**” (NIV)*

But because God did come and was born as a man on this earth, we can read vs.13,14, 19 (NIV)

*¹³ **But now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has **destroyed the barrier**, the dividing wall of hostility,” [between us]*

*“¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also **members of his household.**” (NIV)*

Without Jesus Christ we would just live in houses but with Christ we are part of the household of God. What a difference Jesus makes!
With Christ, we have it all!!!! **The entire story of Christmas is the story of our redemption!**

c. But there is another aspect of this hope. It is a Future Hope. For example, the **Hope of heaven**. The promise those who trust in Christ will have eternal life. You and I have the opportunity to spend eternity with him. 1 Peter 1: 3-5 says

*“³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into **a living hope** through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” (NIV)*

a. To say that all human beings cling to a hope, however, is not to say that all human beings have a true, living hope. Many non-believers place their hope in things that are only fleeting — money, fame, power, and so on. To have hope in them is to have only a **dead hope**.

b. The Christian, however, does not have a **dead hope**. As Peter

tells us in today's passage, we have **a living hope** as 1 Peter 1:3 us. This living hope will never end and sustains us as we endure suffering.

c. Ours is a living hope only because its foundation is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead as 1 Peter 1:3 tell us. The fact that Jesus was raised to life two thousand years ago gives us an unshakable conviction that our hope is not in vain. His resurrection vindicates Him as the Lord of creation who is even now making all things new (Rev. 21:5).

d. This living hope is our hope of salvation that includes an **imperishable inheritance** as 1 Peter 1:4 tell us. The new life that we have in Christ is something that can **never be taken away**. In fact, it will be even more glorious once we reach the eternal state.

e. This inheritance, which we will fully experience when we see God face to face in the **"last time,"** can never be lost because God is keeping it for us and guarding us through faith as 1 Peter 1:5 tell us.

f. In the final analysis, God not only initiates our salvation by initially causing us to be born again as 1 Peter 1:3 tell us., He also keeps His people secure in their salvation **"through faith"** as 1 Peter 1:5 tell us. That is to say, it is God who grants us the ability to have faith, and once we exercise that faith, **He sustains and increases** it so that all those who have truly trusted in Christ alone will never abandon the Savior.